

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a current listing of claims and will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for transferring data between a wide area network and a computer system located on ~~a an Ethernet type~~ local area network, comprising:

receiving the data from the wide area network at a digital device that is connected to both the wide area network and the local area network, the data being destined for ~~[[a]]~~ the computer system ~~attached to~~ located on the local area network;

receiving a signal, separate from the received data, indicating that the data is to be transferred to the computer system ~~at a specified bandwidth~~ with a guaranteed quality of service, wherein the signal is received from a network control system server and wherein the data is received by a separate content provider;

formatting packets that contain the data to indicate that the data is to be transmitted at the requested guaranteed quality of service; and

sending the packets that contain the data to the computer system in order to establish; ~~thereby establishing~~ a guaranteed quality of service path ~~communication link~~ between the wide area network and the local area network ~~that transmits data at the requested guaranteed quality of service.~~

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a request for data to be sent ~~send~~ from ~~[[a]]~~ the content provider to the computer system; and

embedding priority information in the data, wherein the priority information signals that the data is to be delivered to the computer system at ~~the~~ a rate higher than the requested guaranteed quality of service.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

placing the packets containing the data to be sent to the computer system in a high priority queue; and

transmitting packets in the high priority queue before transmitting ~~packets~~ packet in corresponding low priority queues.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the said~~ the formatting ~~step~~ further comprises inserting priority information into headers ~~associated~~ associates with the packets, wherein packets having headers with high priority information are transmitted before packets having headers with low priority information.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a signal indicating that the data is to be transferred at a guaranteed quality of service further comprises receiving a signal indicating that the data is to be transferred to the computer system at a rate higher than a specified minimum rate.

7. (Currently amended) A method for transferring data between a wide area network and a computer system located on a ~~an Ethernet type~~ local area network, comprising:

receiving the data from the wide area network at a digital device that is connected to both the wide area network and the local area network, the data being destined for ~~[[a]]~~ the computer system ~~attached to~~ located on the local area network;

receiving a signal indicating that the data is to be transferred to the computer system at a rate higher than ~~a~~ the specified minimum rate;

formatting packets that contain the data to indicate that the data is to be transmitted at ~~[[a]]~~ the rate higher than the specified minimum rate; and

sending the packets that contain the data to the computer system, ~~thereby establishing in order to establish~~ a communication link between the wide area network and the local area network ~~for transmitting that transmits~~ data at the rate higher than the specified minimum rate;

wherein establishing the communication link comprises establishing a standard session initiation between the digital device and the computer system.

8. (Currently amended) A system for transferring data between a wide area network and a computer system located on ~~a an Ethernet type~~ local area network, comprising:

~~a content provider adapted to broadcast data destined for the computer system; and~~
a network control system server configured ~~adapted~~ to send a guaranteed quality of service signal to a digital device that is attached to the local area network, wherein the digital device is operable in one mode of operation to:

receive data destined for the computer system from ~~the a~~ content provider over the wide area network, wherein the content provider is configured to transmit the data destined for the computer system;

receive the guaranteed quality of service signal from the network control system server, wherein the guaranteed quality of service signal specifies a guaranteed quality of service;

format the data to indicate that the data is to be transmitted over the local area network at the specified guaranteed quality of service; and

send the data to the computer system~~[[,]]~~ in order to establish a guaranteed quality of service path ~~thereby establishing a communication link between the wide area network and the local area network that transmits data at the specified guaranteed quality of service.~~

9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the wide area network is one of a circuit-switched or public switched telephone network infrastructure (PSTN).

10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the network control system server is configured ~~adapted~~ to establish a dedicated communication route between the content provider and the digital device through the circuit-switched infrastructure based on a desired guaranteed quality of service over the WAN and the respective Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of the content provider and the computer system.

11. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the wide area network is one of a circuit-switched or packet-switched public or private network infrastructure.

12. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the network control system server is configured ~~adapted~~ to establish a dedicated communication route between the content

provider and the digital device through the circuit-switched or ~~packet-switched~~ or packet-switched infrastructure based on a desired guaranteed quality of service over the WAN and the respective IP addresses of the content provider and the computer system.

13. (Currently amended) A computer readable program storage device encoded with instructions that, when executed by a computer, transfers data between a wide area network and a computer system located on a ~~an Ethernet type~~ local area network, comprising:

receiving the data from the wide area network at a digital device that is connected to both the wide area network and the local area network, the data being destined for a computer system attached to the local area network;

receiving a signal, separate from the received data, indicating that the data is to be transferred to the computer system at a guaranteed quality of service, wherein the signal is received from a network control system server and the data is received from a content provider, separate from the network control system server, on the wide area network;

formatting packets that contain the data to indicate that the data is to be transmitted at the specified guaranteed quality of service; and

sending the packets that contain the data to the computer system~~[[,]]~~ in order to establish a guaranteed quality of service path ~~thereby establishing a communication link~~ between the wide area network and the local area network ~~that transmits data at the specified guaranteed quality of service.~~

14. (Cancelled).

15. (New) A system, comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor and configured to store program instructions executable by the processor to:

receive data sent to a computer from a content provider, wherein the content provider is on a wide area network, wherein the computer is on a local area network, and wherein the wide area network is communicably coupled to the local area network through the system;

receive a guaranteed quality of service signal from a network control system server on the wide area network, wherein the guaranteed quality of service signal specifies a guaranteed quality of service, and wherein the guaranteed quality of service signal is received by the system prior to the system receiving the data;

in response to receiving the guaranteed quality of service signal from the network control system server, format the data to indicate that the data is to be transmitted over the local area network at the specified guaranteed quality of service; and

establish a communication link between the wide area network and the local area network by sending the data to the computer at the specified guaranteed quality of service.

16. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the processor and memory are comprised in a router.

17. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein establishing the communication link comprises establishing a session between the system and the computer.

18. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein establishing the communication link comprises establishing a circuit switched communication path between the system and the computer.

19. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein establishing the communication link comprises the system communicating with the computer using Ethernet-defined quality of service mechanisms.

20. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the content provider is operable to send a request to the network control system server for the guaranteed quality of service for data sent by the content provider to the computer through the system.

21. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the data sent to the computer from the content provider is streamed audio and video.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the data includes a packet with a header portion and a data portion.

23. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the standard session initiation comprises framing and quality of service at the MAC layer protocols.